



2011 Launches for NASA Missions



Mars Science Laboratory (Curiosity)

Launch Vehicle: Atlas V-541 (AV-028)

Launch Site: Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

Launch Pad: Space Launch Complex 41

Launch Date: Targeted for Nov. 25, 2011

Launch Time: 10:25 a.m. EST

Mission: The Mars Science Laboratory is a large rover called Curiosity that will assess whether Mars ever was, or is still today, an environment able to support microbial life and to determine the planet's habitability.

Curiosity is equipped with 10 science instruments to search for signs of life, including methane, and help determine if the gas is from a biological or geological source. During the 23 months after landing on the Red Planet, the rover will use a laser to look inside rocks and release the gas so its spectrometer can analyze and send the data back to Earth.

For more information, go to www.nasa.gov/msl.



NASAfacts

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

John F. Kennedy Space Center
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

www.nasa.gov

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